



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**
Mississippi River
Commission
Mississippi Valley
Division

BIOGRAPHY

COLONEL THOMAS A. HOLDEN JR. (Secretary)

Colonel Thomas A. Holden Jr. assumed his duties as Deputy Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division and Secretary of the Mississippi River Commission on August 1, 2001. He came to MVD from the Little Rock District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he served as Commander.

Colonel Holden was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the United States Military Academy, West Point, in June 1975. Since then, he has served in a variety of assignments overseas and in the continental United States. On his initial tour of duty in Germany, he served as a platoon leader and company executive officer in the 79th Engineer Battalion from 1976 until 1979. He then served as battalion adjutant and commanded Company C while assigned to the 92nd Engineer Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga., from 1979 until 1982.

After completing graduate school, Colonel Holden served as instructor and assistant professor of mechanics, Department of Mechanics, United States Military Academy, from 1984 until 1987. During his next troop unit assignments he served as battalion operations officer (S-3) and executive officer in the 20th Engineer Battalion, Fort Campbell, Ken., from 1988 until 1990.

Following attendance at the Armed Forces Staff College, Colonel Holden was assigned to a joint duty billet as a structural engineer, Target Intelligence Division, Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington D.C., from 1990 until 1993. During this assignment, he utilized his advanced civil schooling supporting targeting of hardened structures by the U.S. Air Force and U. S. Navy during the Gulf War. He later deployed to theater in support of intelligence exploitation efforts in March 1991.

Colonel Holden commanded the 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, from 1993 until 1995. In 1995, his battalion along with division deployed to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy where Colonel Holden served as the Multi-National Force Engineer. Shortly after returning from Haiti, Colonel Holden served as the Inspector General, 35th Infantry Division and U.S. Army Hawaii, from 1995 until 1996. This was followed by a Pentagon tour as an environmental staff officer in the Pollution Prevention Branch, Directorate of Environmental Programs on the Army Staff, from 1996 until 1997.

Colonel Holden's military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff Course, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Civil Engineer Degree and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Ranger Tab and Parachutist's Badge. Colonel Holden is a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts. He is married with three children.

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